

EXTRACTS OF INFORMATION

TT-2 AUSTRIA: SCRUTINY
B R I E F S Sept. 15, 1950

1951 YOUTH MEETING—The Federal committee of the Free Austrian Youth has decided to call a large youth meeting of 50,000 for Whitsuntide in 1951 in Vienna. (Vienna, OESTERREICHISCHE ZEITUNG, Sept. 10, 1950—A)

TT1

A U S T R I A

Oct. 30, 1950

POST-EASTER YOUTH PEACE RALLY PREPARED

Vienna, RAVAG, in German to Austria, Oct. 27, 1950, 1635 GMT—L

(Russian Hour: The Voice of Truth, Youth Broadcast)

(Summary)

A big youth peace rally will take place in Vienna on Whitsunday next year. Details are not yet known, but 50 thousand youths from all Austrian provinces will gather in the capital at that time. There will be a gigantic youth demonstration over the Ringstrasse in Vienna on the eve of Whitsunday and there will also be fireworks and various other festivities. Cultural groups from abroad will dance, sing, and perform. Various sports activities will be conducted, including a soccer match and international light-athletics competition.

The Federal office of the Free Austrian Youth which is arranging this meeting as a demonstration for peace, for Austria's national independence, and for the withdrawal of the Occupying Powers, is running competitions now for designs of a badge to be worn by participants of the meeting, for songs, sketches, and plays suitable for the peace rally.

There will be various cash prizes for winning entries which are to be submitted not later than Dec. 1, 1950. The prizes range between 500 and 150 schillings.

~~SECRET~~

A

INCOMING TELEGRAM

From: Vienna

Rec'd December 1, 1950
11:01 p.m.

No. 1097, December 1, 9 p.m.

Peripheral -- Legation telegram 1089, December 1 -- at last night's concluding session Council meeting World Federation Democratic Youth (WFDY) delegates voted accept invitation from Free German Youth (FDJ) to hold third world youth festival in Berlin next summer under slogan "World Festival of Young Peace Fighters." Meeting also informed by French delegate J.J. Denis of decision to summon all French youth to jamboree in Paris at Whitsuntide 1951. Purpose Paris rally to further objectives proclaimed by recent Warsaw Peace Congress.

Foregoing suggests focal points future activities organized Communist youth in Europe likely be Paris and Berlin.

INCOMING TELEGRAM

FROM: Vienna

Control: 4325
Rec'd: January 10, 1951
5:18 p.m.

No. 1399, January 10.

VOLKSTIME of 10 January reported Vienna section of Young Guard, lower age group Communist youth organization, had completed large-scale program in preparation for Vienna Whitsuntide rally of 50,000. Group planning series of children's balls, athletic meets and entertainments to raise money. Funds needed, among other things, for blue shirts and carfare to Vienna for improvident. Communist youth organ, Jugend Voran, reported intensified recruiting by provincial youth groups in preparation for rally. Paper emphasized special efforts necessary if figure of 50,000 is to be attained. Urged formation of Whitsuntide committees in all localities, with special efforts to attract "youth of all opinions and philosophies."

INCOMING TELEGRAM

FROM: Salzburg

No. P 0066, 19 Jan 51 (Army Message)

Free Aust Youth and Communist Party already very active in preparations for Whitsuntide youth rally in Vienna modelled after that staged in Berlin last year. Articles on rally, which has goal of 50,000 participants, appear in Communist or Sov press here almost daily. Program for 12

through 14 May calls for greeting foreign delegations, holding sport competitions, march in uniform around the Ringstrasse to mass gatherings before city hall. Young Guard, Communist children's organization, will set up tent city in Prater Park for three day period.

TT 6

AUSTRIA: Scrutiny
Feb. 7, 1951

COMMUNIST YOUTH MEETING—Fifty thousand Communist youths from all of Austria will take part in the Whitsuntide youth meeting in Vienna. There will be symbolic demonstrations expressing the determination of the Communist youth to stand up for peace and freedom. Much attention is given to the organization of the march over the Ringstrasse. (Vienna, VOLKSTIMME, Feb. 7, 1951 - A)

TT 6

AUSTRIA: Scrutiny
Feb. 12, 1951

YOUTH MEETING—Special stamps for a Whitsuntide meeting of the Austrian Youth in Vienna are being sold to businessmen in Styria and particularly in Graz. As the public is not aware of the real organizers of this meeting, it should be stressed that this event is exclusively a Communist affair. The collectors, in accordance with their directions and the general tactics of the Communist Party, avoid naming the Communists or other youth organization, the Free Austrian Youth, as the initiators of this youth meeting. (Graz, DAS STEIRERBLATT, Feb. 8, 1951—A)

TT 1

A U S T R I A

Mar. 1, 1951

RADIO AND PRESS SCRUTINY

The following items are selected from Austrian radio scripts, newspapers, and press agency files, as indicated:

COMMUNIST YOUTH WHITSUN MEETING—A meeting of Communist youths who are supported by foreign Communist countries, is to take place in Vienna on Whitsun. The Chamber of Labor warns all shop stewards that the Provincial Whitsun Committee which will be soliciting funds for the meeting is nothing but a Communist youth group and that shop steward funds cannot legally be used for their enterprises. (Klagenfurt, DIE NEUE ZEIT, Feb. 27, 1951—A)

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FROM: VIENNA 718 January 26, 1951

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR A COMMUNIST YOUTH WHITSUNTIDE PEACE RALLY IN VIENNA

A Whitsuntide youth rally modelled after last year's demonstration in Berlin is being planned by the Austrian Communist youth organization, the Free Austrian Youth (FOeJ), which hopes to attract 50,000 participants to Vienna for the event scheduled to take place from May 12, through May 14.

Active planning for the rally began in October, 1950, when the FOeJ named a preparatory committee to arrange for the organization of the celebration. The Central Committee of the Austrian Communist Party in its sixth plenary session on October 12 and 13 threw its support behind the project and called on "all progressive and peace-loving people in Austria to support with all their strength this great youth meeting for peace." On that occasion Franz HONNER, a Communist M.P. and a member of the Party's politburo, revealed the importance attached to the rally by the Party when he told the Central Committee, "We cannot leave this task to the FOeJ alone; the entire Party will have to collaborate. Our organization must take part in the preparations for and our press in propagandizing the event. The Whitsuntide meeting of the Austrian youth will be a political event of first-class importance."

Early in November invitations were dispatched by the FOeJ to the Free German Youth and to other Communist youth organizations in various countries inviting their participation in the rally "to show our youth that they have powerful friends throughout the entire world in their fight for peace and against American imperialism." The FOeJ also drew up a pamphlet intended for dissemination among Austrian "young Communists, Socialists, trade unionists, and Catholics" (sic!) urging them to join the cause of "all young Austrians who want to see our country free of occupying powers, independent and peaceful."

A usually reliable source has informed the Legation that the tentative schedule for the three-day rally has been drawn up as follows:

Saturday, May 12
Sunday, May 13

Monday, May 14

Arrival of delegates
Preliminary eliminations for sport competitions. Demonstrations in some districts of Vienna
AM - Further sports events
PM - March along the Ring to the Rathausplatz for a mass demonstration with speeches. Final sports events at the stadium in the Prater Park.

(Another report indicates that the march along the Ring and the mass demonstration, the main events of the rally, will take place on Saturday, May 14, the first day of the celebration, rather than on the following Monday.)

During the entire rally a tent city to be known as the "Johann Kopenig Republic" will be set up in the Prater Park by the Young Guard, a Communist organization of children too young to join the POeJ. Other activities will be organized for "Kinderland", the Communist tots' organization.

As in Berlin in 1950, participants in the rally are being urged to wear uniforms for their march and demonstration. Jugend Varan, the organ of the Free Austrian Youth, has for some weeks advertised POeJ shirts at 38 schillings and girls' blue skirts at 35 schillings as available at the "House of Youth", the POeJ headquarters in the Soviet sector of Vienna.

The membership drive by the POeJ and a contest to secure new subscriptions to Jugend Varan have been launched to attract support and publicity for the Whitsuntide meeting. The drive, which lasted for about six weeks, is claimed to have netted about 1300 new members for the Communist youth organization. Considering that at the POeJ convention in May 1950 a total national membership for the organization, inclusive of the two junior groups, of 11,000 was claimed (and it is believed by American intelligence agencies that this figure represented an exaggeration of over 50%), it appears doubtful that the Communist Party or its affiliated youth groups can muster the 50,000 participants whom they would like to see parade at Whitsuntide. The very magnitude of this target, however, and the heavy stream of propaganda being played on it would indicate that this is a major Austrian Communist endeavor, to be watched with close interest and attention.

FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER:

/s/ Walter Dowling,
Deputy High Commissioner

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